Demolish a ca. 1952 house.

One-story Ranch house clad in painted shingles and brick veneer. Its picture windows, cross-gabled roof, and deep eaves with exposed rafter tails are typical of the Ranch style. It features a standing-seam metal roof and box columns at the shed-roofed covered entrance.

The house was built between 1950 and 1952 by John G. and Ethel Barrow. John Graves Barrow was a missionary, a linguist, and a former librarian for the Library of Congress. His wife Ethel was the daughter of Congregationalist missionaries and was active with her husband in the Friends Services community of Austin. After his career as a scholar and emissary to the Far East, John G. Barrow returned to Austin to work in the successful family real estate and insurance brokerage business before retiring in the 1960s. After John Graves Barrow’s death in 1979, his son John Gulick Barrow, an artist, moved into the house with his wife Leah, where they remained until at least 1992.

The windows and front door were replaced in 2012.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark
1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity.
3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352).
   a) Architecture. The house displays stylistic influences of the Ranch style.
   b) Historical association. The house does not appear to meet the criterion for significant historical association, though the Commission may choose to consider the Barrows’ contributions to Austin’s civic and business spheres.
   c) Archaeology. The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
   d) Community value. The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
   e) Landscape feature. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use, but release the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.
PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos

Occupyancy History
City Directory Research, Austin History Center, December 2019

1992  John G. and Leah Barrow, owners
       Artist

1985-86 John G. and Leah Barrow, owners
           Artist

1981  Ethel G. Barrow, owner
       Retired

1977  John G. Barrow, owner
       Retired

1973  John G. Barrow, owner
       Retired

1968  John G. Barrow, owner
       Retired

1965  John G. and Ethel G. Barrow, owners
       Retired

Photos: Zillow.com
1963  John G. and Ethel G. Barrow, owners
       Barrow Company
1960  John G. and Ethel G. Barrow, owners
       Barrow Company
1957  John G. and Ethel G. Barrow, owners
       Barrow Company
1955  John G. and Ethel G. Barrow, owners
       Barrow Company Real Estate & Insurance
1952  John G. and Ethel G. Barrow, owners
       Student
       Barrow Company
1949  Address not listed

Biographical Information

The Austin American Statesman; May 17, 1979

Linguist-librarian Barrow, 87, buried

John Graves Barrow, linguist, librarian and Austin resident since 1950, was buried Monday.

Barrow, 87, graduated from the University of Texas and later earned his Ph.D. from Yale Divinity School. He taught English and etiquette at Lingnan University and, after learning to speak Cantonese, became the consultant for Chinese affairs for Webster's International Dictionary.

Barrow also was a former librarian for the Library of Congress, and a coordinator of exchange programs for Near and Far Eastern students for the one-time Department of Education.

After moving to Austin, Barrow worked for the family real-estate and insurance business and was instrumental in the establishment of the Friends Meeting of Austin.

Following his retirement, he compiled a noted theological reference work, "Bibliography of Bibliographies of Religion."

Barrow is survived by his wife, Ethel, Austin; two sons; four grandchildren; a brother; and two sisters. Funeral services were Monday at Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

The Austin American Statesman; Apr 17, 1979
Missionaries’ Memorabilia Shipped to Harvard Library

By DON ADAMS
Staff Writer

Some 65,000 letters in more than 30 boxes weighing some 600 pounds were mailed for the last time Tuesday by an Austin family who had collected them for four generations of missionaries whose work in the Far East spanned about 100 years.

The letters, along with diaries, memoranda, lecture and sermon notes, and other memorabilia, were sent to Harvard University’s Houghton Library rare book and manuscript collection by Dr. and Mrs. John Graves Barrow of 4909 Crestway.

Mrs. Barrow’s brother, the Rev. Leeds Gulick, visiting the Barrows in Austin over the winter, helped ship the boxes to Houghton librarian Dr. W. H. Bond.

For Gulick, it was a kind of farewell. The last in a line of four generations of Gulicks who have worked as Congregationalists in missionary work abroad, Gulick is retired and plans to go to Florida for the summer.

But he remembers Ebon, a South Pacific island in Micronesia, where his father’s ashes are buried, where his grandfather conducted missionary work, and where he himself was ordained after World War II.

He also remembers a childhood in Japan, where he was born at Osaka, and the work he did in Japan after graduating from college in Oberlin, Ohio.

The first Gulick to become a missionary was the Rev. Peter J. Gulick, Mrs. Barrow’s great-grandfather, an evangelist for the Presbyterian Church who was among the second group of missionaries sent to the Sandwich Islands (present-day Hawaii) in 1827.

Born in Freehold, N.J., Peter Gulick was baptized in 1797, and was 36 when he first went to Honolulu.

His son, Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, left Hawaii at the age of 12 to study in Boston. He later returned to the South Pacific to serve in Hawaii, Micronesia, Japan, and China. He also went to Italy and Spain, to convert Catholics to the “true religion” of Protestantism.

Mrs. Barrow said her great-grandfather was the only Gulick who was a Presbyterian. The others were Congregationalists, a branch which split from the Presbyterians over the issue of baptismal immersion.

Dr. Gulick, working in Micronesia, saved the natives from a plague of smallpox which had been introduced to the islands by sailors. The Rev. Leeds Gulick said Dr. Gulick, having no vaccine available, inoculated himself with the germ, and from the infection of his own body devised a vaccine with which he inoculated all the Islanders.

He is also known as the man who introduced the Mu-Mu dress to the South Sea Islands. Since he had to baptize the natives he converted, he could not do so in good conscience unless they were clothed. Having no one else available to make the dresses for the women, he got an old Mother Hubbard and patterned the dresses he himself made after this garment. From that beginning, the Mu-Mu has developed, Mrs. Barrow said.

Dr. Gulick’s son, Luther Halsey Gulick II, introduced physical education classes to the New York city school system, and edited a group of books on hygiene which were studied in almost all schools in the nation about 40 years ago.

Luther Halsey Gulick III, nephew of Luther Gulick II, is a public administrator who once served as New York City’s city manager, and is still sought by foreign governments for administrative advice.

Mrs. Barrow’s father, and son of the elder Dr. Luther Gulick, was the Rev. Dr. Sidney Lewis Gulick, 1890-1945, a missionary to Japan. He was decorated by the Japanese emperor for his religious work, and was
The Austin Statesman; May 27, 1966

Church Groups Request Abandonment of H-Bomb

Representatives of three church groups Friday called for abandonment of the H-bomb regardless of what others do, in a statement made public in Austin by John G. Barrow, chairman of the southwest regional committee of the American Friends Service Committee.

"Man cannot serve both Christ and the bomb," said a statement issued by members of the Mennonite Central Committee, Brethren Service Commission, and American Friends Service Committee.

The Good Friday statement said:

"Today our thoughts go back 2000 years ago to Calvary, but for mankind in 1954 the cross of Christ stands in the shadow of the cross of hydrogen.

"Two crosses: One standing for redemptive love and forgiveness, for the acceptance of suffering, for hope, for life; the other for hatred and massive retaliation, for the infliction of suffering, for fear, for death. One proclaims that evil is overcome with good; the other that evil can only be met with evil.

"Man cannot serve both Christ and the bomb. He must choose which is to be his master. Let us choose the cross of Christ. Let us cease deluding ourselves: Peace cannot be built from fear. Men do not gather grapes from thorns. Let us be done with these fearful weapons, regardless of what others do.

"Whether the bomb is a tool to deter or to destroy, it is not the sign by which men conquer. Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."

Building Permits

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**Addition permit, 12-11-79**

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<th>Parking</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Exits</td>
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<td>stud size</td>
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<td>Exit lights</td>
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**Owner:** John Barrow  
**Contractor:**  

**Clerk:**  
**Date:** 12-11-79  
**Inspector:**  

*City of Austin*
To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.

Sir:—

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by

V.E. Wattenger

further described as Lot 18, Block F, Highland Park West

NOTE: Connection Instruction

Elaborate sewer connection

Sewer tap permit, 12-13-50

Water tap permit, 12-13-50

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Received of: JOHN FARMER

Address: 4509 CRESTWAY AVE

Amount: THIRTY DOLLARS ($30.00)

Size of Tap 1"

Date of Connection 12-28-50

Size of Tap Made 1"

Size Service Made 1"

Size Main Tapped 12" E.

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 45'

From N. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 25'

Location of Meter: CURB

Type of Box: L.O.C.

Depth of Main in St. 31'

Depth of Service Line 25'

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 30'

Checked at 1-24-51

Water tap permit, 12-13-50